

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15601 051603Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----022131 051622Z /41
O 051559Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3918

S E C R E T MOSCOW 15601

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, PCAT, US, UR
SUBJECT: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS TALKS (CAT)

1. I DISCUSSED PRIVATELY WITH MENDELEVICH ON JULY 4 THE QUESTION OF THE AGREEMENT MADE IN HELSINKI REGARDING THE THREE WORKING GROUPS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL WORKING GROUP. MENDELEVICH WAS LESS CLEAR THAN YOU HAVE BEEN (STATE 164745) ON THE UNDERSTANDING. MENDELEVICH SAID THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM "IN PRINCIPLE" IN ESTABLISHING THE REGIONAL WORKING GROUP, BUT THAT HE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A CONCRETE PROPOSAL FROM YOU INDICATING THE SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED. HE IS CERTAIN THAT THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT "IN FIVE MINUTES" AT THE START OF THE NEXT SESSION, AND IN ANY EVENT HE DOES NOT CONSIDER IT A POLITICAL ISSUE, BUT MERELY A PRACTICAL QUESTION.

2. I THINK THIS IS ABOUT THE MOST WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET FROM MENDELEVICH IN ADVANCE OF HIS ARRIVAL IN HELSINKI. WHETHER OR NOT HIS ATTITUDE ON THE MATTER IS THE RESULT OF A DIFFERENT PERCEPTION OF
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WHAT WAS AGREED, MAY BECOME CLEAR IN HELSINKI LATER THIS MONTH. I DO NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE DID NOT REPORT THE UNDERSTANDING TO HIS DELEGATION AND TO HIS SUPERIORS IN EXACTLY THE SAME TERMS THAT YOU HAVE DESCRIBED IT, AND NOW IS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO AGREE OUTSIDE THE MEETINGS TO BE MORE PRECISE ABOUT THE UNDERSTANDING.

3. IN ANY CASE THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT NOW HE
HAS A CLEAR STATEMENT OF WHAT YOU CDNSIDER THE
AGREEMENT TO HAVE BEEN, AND HE STILL INSISTS THAT
THERE IS NO DISAGREEMENT, THAT THERE IS NO PROBLEM. .
THE INCIDENT ARGUES STRONGLY FOR PLACING ALL
UNDERSTANDINGS ON THE RECORD IN THE PLENARIES TO
AVOID SUCH CONTRETEMPS. TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW15601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780275-1193
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780795/aaaadbzz.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ac0afc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2115698
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS TALKS (CAT)
TAGS: PARM, PCAT, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ac0afc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014